

TOP SECRET

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DOS review(s) completed.

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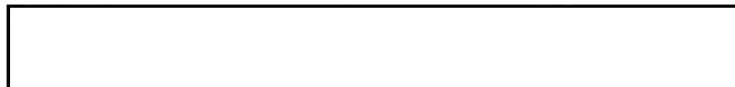
GENERAL

2. Negotiations for defense of Iceland being finalized:Iceland
US

Iceland's Foreign Minister has presented a draft of the US-Iceland defense agreement which, in the opinion of the US Legation in Reykjavik, leaves no important points unresolved. The Foreign Minister reportedly hopes to obtain speedy approval of the draft by the Cabinet and by party leaders. At a later date, he intends to present to the Althing only the short basic agreement (which

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provides broadly that Keflavik Airport facilities will be made available to the armed forces of NATO parties for the defense of Iceland) but he desires to hold to a minimum published material regarding the detailed annexes (which specify the composition of the forces and the conditions under which they will utilize Icelandic facilities).

Comment: Negotiations will probably continue for a least another two weeks, since the Icelandic draft must obtain US approval and thus may be subject to a few minor changes. Absolute agreement on the duration of the pact has not been reached, and it is expected that Iceland will continue to insist on some recognition of its right to terminate the pact unilaterally. The Foreign Minister feels assured of sufficient support among the non-Communist Althing members to secure approval of the agreement, which will probably be presented in special session, since the Althing has adjourned for the summer.

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EASTERN EUROPE

4. Yugoslavs seek to assign war correspondent to Korea:

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US Ambassador Allen in Belgrade reports that the editor of the Belgrade daily Politika has requested US assistance in obtaining permission for a Yugoslav newspaperman to be accredited as a war correspondent in Korea. Ambassador Allen considers it decidedly in the US interest for Yugoslavia to have its own correspondent in Korea, since articles written by a Yugoslav correspondent would have a greater impact on Yugoslav public opinion than foreign news stories republished in Yugoslav papers. Allen comments that the Yugoslav Government may desire to change its Korean policy from neutrality to active support of the UN and may wish to assign a Yugoslav correspondent to Korea in order to develop an internal basis for such a change.

Comment: Yugoslav coverage of the Korean war would probably be useful not only within Yugoslavia but also throughout Eastern Europe in countering Soviet fabrications regarding the Korean war. Since the Yugoslav Government has been gradually moving from its independent position between East and West to one of closer alignment with the West and is now seeking both military and economic assistance from Western sources, the government is probably willing to give moral support to UN action in Korea. However, it is not likely to support any UN action which, in its opinion, might expand the war in the Far East and thereby weaken Western Europe.

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